

**CHINESE HEALTH OFFICIALS VISIT LACDMH**  
**By Karen Zarsadiaz-Ige, Public Information Officer II**



On Thursday, July 12, 2012, the United States Department of State arranged for the visit of public health officials from the Chinese government at the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH). The delegation, traveling under the Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program, paid a visit to the LACDMH offices located at 600 Commonwealth Avenue.

The delegation of seven wanted to learn about LACDMH's efforts on suicide prevention and education. Arranged by the County Office of Protocol, the delegates and their interpreters met with Sam Chan, Ph.D., District Chief, Family and Community Partnerships, Jason Huang, Ph.D., Martha Alamillo, L.C.S.W., and Richard Lieberman, LAUSD School Psychologist.

The group from LACDMH shared information about Los Angeles County's suicide prevention and early intervention programs as well as its partnership with LAUSD. Earlier in the day, the delegation also met with the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services to discuss its public outreach efforts.

"We have integrated health services here in Los Angeles with the Department of Health Services, Public Health and Mental Health," said Dr. Chan. "Even in the midst of a budget crisis, our mental health programs are still thriving."

Through their interpreters, the Chinese delegates asked questions about LACDMH's efforts and programs, and thanked LACDMH for giving them insight

into how the country's largest mental health system helps the residents of Los Angeles County.

Through an interpreter, Haiyan Ye, founder of the China Grassroots Women's Rights Center, thanked LACDMH for allowing them to visit. "Thank you for speaking with us. We learned a lot from you today. It was very helpful."

The group of Chinese medical government officials, community activists and hospital administrators spent three weeks in the U.S. learning about public health concerns, including epidemic management, food and product safety, pollution, emerging infectious diseases and other threats to the population. The three-week project allowed them to get an overview of the health care system in the U.S. and understand how the U.S. manages disease epidemic preparedness at the federal and local levels. The delegation visited multiple cities, including Washington, D.C., Atlanta and Kansas City before making its final stop here in Los Angeles.

